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WEST GERMANY
Mar. 16, 1959

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL--The presidium of the SPD on Mar. 13 advised all members of the party not to participate in the communist World Youth Festival in Vienna or to cooperate in its propaganda and preparation, adding that participation in the Festival is incompatible with party membership. (Hamburg, DPA, Mar. 13, 1959, 1633 GMT--G) The official SPD youth organization "Falken" will send a large delegation to the communist-sponsored World Youth Festival in Vienna and also participate in the preparatory work of the Festival committees. In contrast, the Socialist organization Young Socialists has declared its solidarity with the Austrian National Youth Ring which is engaged in propaganda against the Festival. The SPD party executive has so far made no official comment on this contradictory attitude of the two German Socialist youth groups. (Fulda, INTERN INFORMATIONEN, Mar. 11, 1959--G)

SAVE FREEDOM COMMITTEE--The SPD executive on Mar. 13 ousted three of its members who belong to the Save Freedom Committee. They are SPD members Otto Stolz, Ernst J. Salter, and Wolfgang Hoffmann-Harnisch. A press release says that the trio continued to participate in the activities of this "front organization," although the SPD executive on Feb. 13 had decided that SPD membership is incompatible with membership in the Save Freedom Committee. (Hamburg, DPA, Mar. 13, 1959, 1115 GMT--G)

RADEMACHER STATEMENT--In a letter to FDP Chairman Reinhold Maier, Willy Max Rademacher, FDP Bundestag Deputy of Hamburg, has declared that no official talks whatsoever had taken place between FDP representatives and members of the Soviet zone LDP in Leipzig during the Leipzig fair. Rademacher claims that all he did was to participate in this year's economic talks which the LDP conducts every year with Western economic representatives. In these talks he had proposed joint administration of both parts of Berlin under a U.N. guarantee as a provisional measure until the conclusion of a German peace treaty. (Hamburg, DPA, Mar. 13, 1959, 1110 GMT--G)

ERHARD PROPOSAL TO USSR--On Mar. 13 Federal Economics Minister Erhard offered the Soviet Union cooperation in aiding underdeveloped countries in an address at the 39th dinner of the East Asia Association in Hamburg, which was attended by about 500 guests from all parts of the Federal Republic. Cooperation with the Soviet Union, the Minister said, should not proceed under the catchword of world revolution but should rather be a united effort to help needy persons. Such cooperation would also change current political perspectives. (Hamburg, DPA, Mar. 13, 1959, 2257 GMT--G)

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The SPD welcomed the NATO communique of December which expressed the Western determination to stand firm but also recommended political solutions. According to this communique, the Berlin problem can only be solved in connection with an agreement on Germany as a whole, and the West is still willing to discuss disarmament.

Since then, the spokesman continued, four months have passed and all that is left is talk about war, but no political solutions are forthcoming. Neither the three major powers and the Federal Republic nor the entire NATO have so far agreed on a common political concept. The SPD has the unpleasant impression that certain American military circles are using the Berlin problem as a means of continuing the competition between the armed forces.

INDUSTRY ATTACKS ERHARD'S TRADE POLICY

Stuttgart, STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, Mar. 16, 1959--G

(Summary) Bonn--In an open letter addressed to West German industrialists, the German Industry Institute strongly attacks Economics Minister Erhard's economic policy, stating that West German industry has tried for more than a year to induce Erhard to revise this policy basically. Carl Neumann, vice president of the Federation of West German Industry Associations and president of the West German Textile Industry Association, points out that a continuation of Erhard's policy will cause considerable damage to some important industrial groups.

Since the political integration of Europe has been suspended for an indefinite period, the Economics Ministry must prevent the economic integration provisions from damaging West German industry over an extended interim period. It is an unsound economic policy, the institute points out, to accept imports at dumping prices just for the sake of boosting exports. Neumann finally rejected Erhard's appeal to industry to cut its prices generally and notes that this appeal will particularly increase the population's reluctance to buy products of those industries whose prices are influenced by very stiff competition.

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AFRICAN VISITORS--Eighteen leading personalities from French African countries, including eight ministers, on Mar. 16 discussed economic and cultural questions in Bonn with Foreign Ministry officials and economic experts. They were also received by Foreign Minister von Brentano. (Hamburg, DPA, Mar. 16, 1959, 1653 GMT--G)

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